

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238476

TOSEC 362

FOL SECSTATE 238476 SENT ACTION DACCA OCTOBER 30 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238476

TOSEC 362

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 15008 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA
ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LISBON LONDON
LUXEMBOURG OSLO OTTAWA PARIS REYKJAVIK NATO DIA WASHDC
DATED 30 OCT 74
QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND D15

PASS TREASURY

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REF: ROME 14869

1. SUMMARY. SURPRISE DESIGNATION OF ALDO MORO TO FORM GOVERNMENT "WITHIN AMBIENCE OF CENTER-LEFT" HAS APPEARANCE OF SHIFT TO THE LEFT IN DC ATTEMPTS TO FORM GOVERNMENT. FORMULA HE WILL CHOOSE, AND CHANCES OF SUCCESS STILL OBSCURE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT LEONE LAST NIGHT GAVE A MANDATE TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALDO MORO TO ATTEMPT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. MORO ACCEPTED THE MANDATE WITH THE TRADITIONAL RESERVATIONS. FOLLOWING MEETINGS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DIRECTORATE AND PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS TODAY TO FURTHER DEFINE PARTY POLICY, MORO WILL BEGIN A ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH CENTER-LEFT AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES OCTOBER 31.

3. IN STATEMENT FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH LEONE, MORO INDICATED THAT HE WILL SEEK QUOTE MAXIMUM UNITY POSSIBLE, AT LEAST IN TRANSITIONAL PHASE UNQUOTE WITH CENTER-LEFT PARTIES. MORO'S OPTIMUM OBJECTIVE WILL BE RECONSTRUCTION OF FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT COALITION. HOWEVER, FACT THAT PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI WAS UNABLE TO PUT CENTER-LEFT BACK TOGETHER, SUGGESTS THAT MORO AND DC MOR REALISTICALLY HOPE TO PUT TOGETHER SOMETHING LESS THAN FOUR-PARTY GOVERNMENT, WITH SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT TO POSTPONE THREAT OF EARLY ELECTIONS.

4. NOMINATION OF MORO BY DC TOTALLY UNEXPECTED BECAUSE OF REPEATED STATEMENTS BY MORO THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT PARTY DRAFT FOR HEALTH REASONS. EMBASSY SOURCES AND PRESS COMMENTARY INDICATE THAT UPON REFUSAL BY FANFANI TO ACCEPT NEW MANDATE, DC CHAMBER GROUP LEADER PICCOLI WAS PARTY CHOICE. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, MORO DECLARED HIS AVAILABILITY AT LAST MINUTE. HE WAS AT ONCE SUPPORTED BY PARTY LEADERSHIP AS CANDIDATE MOST LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SALVAGE MAXIMUM FROM BREAKDOWN IN EFFORTS TO RESUSCITATE CENTER-LEFT COALITION.

5. SOCIALISTS PLEASED BY DESIGNATION OF MORO, SINCE MOVE CONFIRMS DC RELUCTANCE TO BREAK WITH THEM, AND IS IN LINE WITH MINIMUM PSI OBJECTIVE TO AVOID DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT UNTIL AFTER SPRING REGIONAL ELECTIONS.

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6. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE SHOWING NEW CAUTION IN FACE OF WIDE APPROVAL OF MORO DESIGNATION. MOREOVER, STANCE OF MAJORITY LEADERSHIP WHICH CLEARLY FAVORS STRAIGHTFORWARD TANASSI-ORLANDI POSITIONS IS CONDITIONED BY SARAGAT LED MINORITY WHICH STILL INSISTS THAT FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT FORMULA MUST BE SALVAGED. REPUBLICANS, AS EVER, INSISTING ON SERIOUS NEGOTIATION OF ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES, AND WILLING CONSIDER ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION WITHIN MORO'S MANDATE WHICH MEETS THEIR

ECONOMIC DESIDERATA. LIBERAL PARTY, ALTHOUGH OUTSIDE SCOPE OF MORO'S EFFORTS TO FORM COALITION, IS PUBLICLY SECONDING PSDI MAJORITY STRATEGY AND IS NOT LIKELY TO SUPPORT ANY SOLUTION REJECTD BY PSDI.

7. COMMENT: MORO, AS SPIRITUAL LEADER OF DC LEFT, IS DC CANDIDATE WITH MOST APPEAL TO SOCIALISTS. THE HYPOTHESIS WIDELY CONSIDERED MOST LIKELY -- A MORO-LED ALL DC OR DC-REPUBLICAN COALITION EXCLUDING BOTH THE PSDI AND LIBERAL PARTY SUPPORT BUT DRAWING ON SOCIALIST VOTES IN PARLIAMENT -- WOULD BE IN APPEARANCE AND REALITY A DECIDED LEFTWARD SHIFT. HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT A POLITICAL REORIENTATION OF THIS SORT WOULD BE STRONGLY RESISTED BY CENTER-RIGHT DC FORCES AS WELL AS THE PSDI. VOLPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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